

Current Status of Claims

1-6. (cancelled)

7. (new) A method for joining a coupling element to a pipe comprising,

a) forming a coupling element with an annular portion for surrounding a pipe,

b) providing the coupling element with a flange portion that extends radially from the annular portion,

c) forming spaced annular grooves in an annular inner surface of the coupling element,

d) forming an annular recess in the annular inner surface of the coupling element at a foremost portion of the coupling element with a recess diameter greater than the outer diameter of the pipe,

e) positioning the coupling element on the pipe at an end region of the pipe such that the recess in the annular inner surface of the coupling element registers with the outer wall of the pipe at an open end of the pipe, the coupling element being positioned on the pipe separate and apart from any other pipe,

f) providing a first and dedicated radially directed pressing action on the inside wall of the pipe, the pressing action corresponding to the location of the annular grooves in the surrounding coupling element, to deform the pipe at the annular grooves to create beads that project from the outside wall surface of the pipe into the annular grooves,

g) providing a second and dedicated radially directed pressing action on the inside wall of the pipe at buckled-in-regions of the pipe wall that naturally occur between and adjacent the created beads during and caused by the first pressing action, to cause a post-pressing of said regions in the outward direction, thereby providing an outward tension on the pipe at the location of the coupling element and,

h) enabling the second and dedicated radial post-pressing action to further press the end of the pipe radially outwards, slightly further than the diameter proper of the pipe, and thus by bending action thereon into the recess of the coupling element aligned with the end of the pipe, to flare the end of the pipe outwardly into the recess.